

I proudly join my colleagues in honoring him with this resolution, and expressing our deep sympathy to Mrs. Betty Ford and her family.

21ST ANNUAL CHILI BOWL MIDGET  
NATIONALS TULSA, OKLAHOMA

**HON. JOHN SULLIVAN**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 10, 2007*

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam Speaker, this weekend marks the 21st Annual Chili Bowl Midget Nationals held in Tulsa, Oklahoma. This great event, which was founded in 1987, is organized by Emmett Hahn and Lanny Edwards, recent inductees into the National Midget Auto Racing Hall of Fame. The Chili Bowl is referred to as midget racing's answer to the Super Bowl.

This annual event draws thousands of people to the Tulsa area from around the country and will bring in an estimated \$12 million to Tulsa's economy. The Chili Bowl itself, held in the Tulsa Expo Center, is an exciting four nights of super powered midget vehicles racing on a quarter-mile clay oval track.

The Chili Bowl draws everyone from amateur drivers to NASCAR champions, who view this event as a great way to spend their off season. This year's event will feature Kasey Kahne, who drives for Evernham Motorsports in the NASCAR Nextel Cup Series, and Tony Stewart, who drives for Joe Gibbs Racing in the NASCAR Nextel Cup Series and was the Chili Bowl champion in 2002. In addition, reigning Chili Bowl champion Tim McCreadie will be there to defend his title.

I would like to welcome all the fans and participants to Tulsa and hope that they have a fun, safe event.

TRIBUTE TO KEITH NELSON

**HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 10, 2007*

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the patriotism and military service of Mr. Keith Nelson of Fleming, Colorado.

Mr. Nelson was born in Sterling, Colorado, and served in the Army in the Pacific theater during World War II from 1944 to 1946. During his military service, he witnessed an incredibly significant moment in history, the end of the Battle of Okinawa. I believe his story is most worthy of being preserved in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

It was close to the end of the fighting in Okinawa, when L Company, 32nd Regiment, 7th Infantry Division had been assigned the task of taking a grove of trees near the southern tip of the island, one of the last pockets of Japanese resistance. Mr. Nelson's platoon was led by a former marine who wanted the glory of reaching the ocean first. As they entered the trees, an American flame throwing tank came up behind them; it had probably been assigned the job of burning the brush and flushing out any concealed Japanese soldiers.

Being the scout of the platoon, Mr. Nelson was assigned the job of stopping the tank. He

went warily back, and walked up very close to the tank, and shouted at the soldiers inside. They hadn't seen Nelson, and when they heard him, they threw the flamethrower in his face. He jumped back and began yelling so they would know he wasn't the enemy and, fortunately they calmed down.

When Nelson got back to his company, his platoon leader rushed them through the grove as fast as they could go. If enemy soldiers had been in there, they would all have been dead.

They kept moving until they could see the edge of the cliff bordering the water; their leader had achieved his objective. As platoon scout, Mr. Nelson was the first to look upon that glorious scene, the end of the Battle of Okinawa. And though he didn't know it at the time, that made him the first to see the end of fighting in World War II.

After the war, Keith returned to Colorado and married Wanda Moncrief in 1948. They had four sons, Dennis, Brett, Elon, and Gary. Mr. Nelson currently resides in Fleming, Colorado.

Madam Speaker, I am grateful for Mr. Nelson's selfless service to our Nation. His story should be preserved for posterity. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing a man worthy of our honor, Mr. Keith Nelson.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 10, 2007*

Mr. NORWOOD. Madam Speaker, on roll call No. 13; On agreeing to the Resolution (H. Res. 35). Had I been present, I would have voted "No."

RECOGNIZING BRAD BAILEY FOR  
ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE  
SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 10, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brad Bailey, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 357, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

I join with his family and friends in expressing best wishes on his significant achievement. I commend Brad on attaining such a high honor and his superior contributions in his community. In addition, Brad has shown much patriotism by serving me in two of my offices as an intern. I am sure he will continue to hold such high standards in the future.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Brad Bailey for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. I am honored to represent Brad in the United States House of Representatives.

CONGRATULATING REBEKAH  
FRIEND FOR HER APPOINTMENT  
AS THE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
OF THE ARIZONA AFL-CIO

**HON. ED PASTOR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 10, 2007*

Mr. PASTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to congratulate Ms. Rebekah Friend for her appointment as the new executive director of the Arizona AFL-CIO. In this capacity she will manage the day-to-day operations of the organization. Through this appointment, Ms. Friend is once again making history in Arizona's labor movement by being the first woman appointed to this position. Previously, she was the first female president of the Arizona AFL-CIO chapter.

Ms. Friend began her labor career in the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers over 25 years ago. During her time as president of the Arizona AFL-CIO, Ms. Friend led numerous initiatives aimed at advancing the working conditions of Arizona's workers, such as improving unemployment insurance and worker's compensation for union members. Additionally, Ms. Friend has worked arduously to raise awareness of the plight of immigrant workers. During this past election season, she also chaired the Minimum Wage Coalition, which successfully helped pass proposition 202 to increase Arizona's minimum wage.

Apart from her work at the Arizona AFL-CIO, Ms. Friend has also served in official capacities with the Arizona Consumer Council, Arizona Citizen Action, Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, Southern Poverty Law Center, Habitat for Humanity, and Emerge Arizona. She was the YWCA's 2004 Woman of the Year and was presented with a lifetime achievement award by the Arizona Democratic Party in 2002.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize Ms. Rebekah Friend for her recent appointment and to express my gratitude for her determination in fighting for the rights of all of Arizona's workers.

HONORING RALPH MOORE

**HON. DEVIN NUNES**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 10, 2007*

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Ralph Moore of Visalia, California, who will celebrate his 100th birthday on January 14, 2007.

Mr. Moore has devoted his life as an innovative agriculturist. He founded Sequoia Nursery in Visalia, California in 1937 with \$800 and a dream of hybridizing miniature roses. His dream became reality, and it continues to thrive today.

Mr. Moore's achievements go beyond his entrepreneurial accomplishments. He has introduced more than 500 roses onto the market, mainly miniatures. He has received the American Rose Society's "Award of Excellence" for 20 of his miniature rose introductions, as well as being honored with other prestigious national and international awards over the years. In 2004, the City of Visalia

honored Mr. Moore with the dedication of the "Ralph Moore Miniature Rose Garden Memorial Park."

Ralph Moore is part of the rich heritage that makes Visalia and the entire Central Valley of California an enjoyable and interesting place to live.

I sincerely wish Ralph Moore a wonderful 100th birthday.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Mr. NORWOOD. Madam Speaker, on roll-call No. 12; on motion to recommit (H. Res. 35). Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

#### RECOGNIZING JOEY M. SAUNDERS FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joey Saunders, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 357, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Joey has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Joey has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. It is with extreme pleasure that I commend the dedication Joey has shown.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Joey for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. I am proud to represent Joey in the U.S. House of Representatives.

#### TRIBUTE TO GARY FRONTIERS SERVICE CLUB

### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, as we celebrate the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and reflect on his life and work, we are reminded of the challenges that democracy poses to us and the delicate nature of liberty. Dr. King's life, and, unfortunately, his untimely death, reminds us that we must continually work to secure and protect our freedoms. Dr. King, in his courage to act, his willingness to meet challenges, and his ability to achieve, embodied all that is good and true in the battle for liberty.

The spirit of Dr. King lives on in the citizens of communities throughout our Nation. It lives

on in the people whose actions reflect the spirit of resolve and achievement that will help move our country into the future. In particular, several distinguished individuals from Indiana's First Congressional District will be recognized during the 28th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast on Monday, January 15, 2007, at the Genesis Convention Center in Gary, Indiana. The Gary Frontiers Service Club, which was founded in 1952, sponsors this annual breakfast.

This year, the Gary Frontiers Club will pay tribute to several local individuals who have for decades unselfishly contributed to improving the human condition of others in the City of Gary. Those individuals who will be recognized as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Marchers at this year's breakfast include: Barbara Cope, the late Reverend Hezekiah Stewart Malone, Jr., Roy Pratt, and Finis Springer. Additionally, Maurice John Preston, Sr. will be honored with the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drum Major Award, an award given out annually to an outstanding individual of the Gary community.

Though very different in nature, the achievements of all of these individuals reflect many of the same attributes that Dr. King possessed, as well as the values he advocated. Like Dr. King, these individuals saw challenges and rose to the occasion. Each one of the honored guests' greatness has been found in their willingness to serve with a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love. They set goals and worked to achieve them.

Madam Speaker, I urge you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending the Gary Frontiers Service Club president, Mr. Oliver J. Gilliam, breakfast chairman, Mr. Clorius L. Lay, and all other members of the service club for their initiative, determination, and dedication to making Northwest Indiana a better place for all who live and work there.

#### FIRST, DO LESS HARM IN MEDICARE

### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, as we vote later this week on negotiating better prices for Part D drugs in Medicare, we must remember that the debate is about much more than prescription drugs. Requiring the Secretary to negotiate for lower drug prices is just one small step in the fight against Medicare privatization and the conservative push to end the Medicare entitlement.

Madam Speaker, I ask that the Paul Krugman Op-Ed from the January 5, 2007, edition of the New York Times be printed in the RECORD.

#### FIRST, DO LESS HARM

(By Paul Krugman)

Universal health care, much as we need it, won't happen until there's a change of management in the White House. In the meantime, however, Congress can take an important step toward making our health care system less wasteful, by fixing the Medicare Middleman Multiplication Act of 2003.

Officially, of course, it was the Medicare Modernization Act. But as we learned during the debate over Social Security, in Bushspeak "modernize" is a synonym for

"privatize." And one of the main features of the legislation was an effort to bring private-sector fragmentation and inefficiency to one of America's most important public programs.

The process actually started in the 1990s, when Medicare began allowing recipients to replace traditional Medicare—in which the government pays doctors and hospitals—with private managed-care plans, in which the government pays a fee to an H.M.O. The magic of the marketplace was supposed to cut Medicare's costs.

The plan backfired. H.M.O.'s received fees reflecting the medical costs of the average Medicare recipient, but to maximize profits they selectively enrolled only healthier seniors, leaving sicker, more expensive people in traditional Medicare. Once Medicare became aware of this cream-skimming and started adjusting payments to reflect beneficiaries' health, the H.M.O.'s began dropping out: their extra layer of bureaucracy meant that they had higher costs than traditional Medicare and couldn't compete on a financially fair basis.

That should have been the end of the story. But for the Bush administration and its Congressional allies, privatization isn't a way to deliver better government services—it's an end in itself. So the 2003 legislation increased payments to Medicare-supported H.M.O.'s, which were renamed Medicare Advantage plans. These plans are now heavily subsidized.

According to the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, an independent federal body that advises Congress on Medicare issues, Medicare Advantage now costs 11 percent more per beneficiary than traditional Medicare. According to the Commonwealth Fund, which has a similar estimate of the excess cost, the subsidy to private H.M.O.'s cost Medicare \$5.4 billion in 2005.

The inability of private middlemen to win a fair competition against traditional Medicare was embarrassing to those who sing the praises of privatization. Maybe that's why the Bush administration made sure that there is no competition at all in Part D, the drug program. There's no traditional Medicare version of Part D, in which the government pays drug costs directly. Instead, the elderly must get coverage from a private insurance company, which then receives a government subsidy.

As a result, Part D is highly confusing. It's also needlessly expensive, for two reasons: the insurance companies add an extra layer of bureaucracy, and they have limited ability to bargain with drug companies for lower prices (and Medicare is prohibited from bargaining on their behalf). One indicator of how much Medicare is overspending is the sharp rise in prices paid by millions of low-income seniors whose drug coverage has been switched from Medicaid, which doesn't rely on middlemen and does bargain over prices, to the new Medicare program.

The costs imposed on Medicare by gratuitous privatization are almost certainly higher than the cost of providing health insurance to the eight million children in the United States who lack coverage. But recent news analyses have suggested that Democrats may not be able to guarantee coverage to all children because this would conflict with their pledge to be fiscally responsible. Isn't it strange how fiscal responsibility is a big concern when Congress is trying to help children, but a nonissue when Congress is subsidizing drug and insurance companies?

What should Congress do? The new Democratic majority is poised to reduce drug prices by allowing—and, probably, requiring—Medicare to negotiate prices on behalf of the private drug plans. But it should go further, and force Medicare to offer direct